

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2015

BRS Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Karen Kravetz, Ms. Keri Matthews, Ms. Emily Melnick and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; Clare Kennedy, Special Services Director and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Doreen Merrill, Teresa Nakouzi, Teachers; Maria Kayne, BOS Liaison; Pua Ford, Bettina Thiel, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Report – No Report

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Stella highlighted the building renovation project inclusive of the installation of AC, new canopies at both entrances, sidewalks/paving, ventilators and enhanced security; the ice cream social and staff preparation for the new year.

World Language Program Recommendation – Dr. Stella provided an overview of the program past and present with a focused shift from expository to proficiency. He noted the offering of Chinese in the Extended Day and Summer Programs to further enhance exposure to additional languages. While no formal change to the program is being recommended at this time, the slight imbalance in Grade 2 instruction has been eliminated through utilization of the Music Teacher in Kindergarten classes.

Enrollment Report – It was questioned why there were only 11 students in the MAG Grade 4 class. It was noted in MAG it is team teaching across four grade levels and students are not segregated into one class or another. The lottery occurs only at the beginning of program. As in other grade levels, students transition in and out of BRS over the years. Overall enrollment in the program has remained constant through the year.

SBAC Report – Ms. Sherman provided an overview of the SBAC Testing conducted in the late spring. SBAC is a mandated assessment based on common core standards. An in-depth analysis will be performed on the data to ascertain individual student growth, cohort growth as well as strengths and weakness. Generally, across the state grade level scores were lower than anticipated with fewer than 40% of students passing state-wide. The overall scores for students in Woodbridge (DRG B) meeting or exceeding the state standard were as follows: ELA (English/Language Arts) – 72.9% (State Average 55.4%) and Math – 61.3% (State Average 39%). It was also noted that each student took a different test and this is the first genre of computer testing.

Tri-State Report – As a result of the Tri-State visit in May, a two-year action plan has been developed with identification of two specific goals – (1) Recognize, nurture and meet the diverse mathematical needs of all learners; (2) Continue to provide information to parents and the community regarding the math program K-6. Under each of these goals are specific objectives for implementation. Recommendations were provided for each of the eight indicators. It was suggested that contact with outside organizations be explored that could generate professional development experts similar to the connection with Columbia Institute. The complete Tri-State Report will be available on the district web site.

STAR Universal Screening – This tool is a computer-adaptive assessment designed to give accurate, reliable, and valid data quickly on decisions that inform instruction and intervention. It provides a periodic snapshot of an individual child's learning pathway to ascertain growth and is a tool that all BOWA districts have elected to utilize. Each test takes approximately 15-20 minutes to administer. It is a brief, succinct, valid, reliable and standardized approach that allows for learning differentiation from elementary through high school. This is the first year of implementation at BRS.

Educator and Administrator Evaluation and Professional Learning Plans – Ms. Prisco provided an overview of the Teacher Evaluation and Administrator plans, recently approved by the CSDE, that require minor language modifications. The Teacher Evaluation Plan was developed in collaboration with teachers and administrators. It was noted that Bloom Board will continue to be the data management system for both teachers and administrators.

MOTION #2 – EDUCATION / ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLANS

Move that we adopt the Education and Administrator Evaluator and Professional Learning Plans as revised for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Jaffe

UNANIMOUS

Facilities Committee – Ms. Jaffe reviewed the September 17 meeting. The next meeting is slated for October 15 at 7:30 AM.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman indicated the committee met on September 8 and reviewed the monthly reports approved earlier in the meeting. The next meeting will be held October 13. Ms. Connor requested two corrections in the meeting minutes noting that Sandy Stein was not in attendance, and under enrollment, it should state 20 not 11-12 students.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor invited Board members to attend the Legal Issues Workshop on October 15 in Middletown.

ACES Liaison – There was a general consensus that there would not be a WBOE representative for the 2015/16 school year given the ACES meeting schedule and Board member commitments.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

- Climate Survey Action Process – the presentation should include how the plan is being developed and outline the next steps.
- World Language – the presentation should detail (1) how our students performed since this is the first complete cohort group of students K-6 in Spanish; (2) identify the differences over time; (3) engage communication with the middle school on our student performance and the integration of our students 7-12.

NEW BUSINESS

WEA Contract – The Board reviewed the recently negotiated contract with the WEA.

MOTION #3 –WEA CONTRACT

Move that we ratify the agreement with the Woodbridge Education Association effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

2015/16 Board Goals – Ms. Hamilton presented the Board Goals drafted at the Retreat and modified at the July meeting.

MOTION #4 – WBOE 2015/16 BOARD GOALS

Move that we approve the Woodbridge Board of Education Goals for 2015/16.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Kravetz

UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:56 PM)

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board